

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants thank the Examiner for his Office Action mailed June 29, 2005. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-16 remain un-amended and in condition for allowance. Claim 19 is amended to correct an objection. Rejected Claims 17, 18, and 19 are cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-16 & 19 are currently pending in the application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17, 18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lopatin et al.* (USPN 6,703,307). Accordingly, these claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner withdraw this pending ground of rejection.

Objections to Claim 19:

Claim 19 is objected to as being based on a rejected base claim. Accordingly, the limitations of base claim 17 are incorporated into amended Claim 19. It is believed that this amendment corrects the problems leading to the pending objection and places Claim 19 in an allowable form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is now allowable over the art of record and places this claim in condition for allowance. The applicants ask that the objection be withdrawn and Claim 19 be allowed to issue.

Allowable Claims

Claims 1-16 have been allowed. Moreover, for the reasons discussed above, the applicants believe that Claim 19 is also allowable as amended. Accordingly, the applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion:

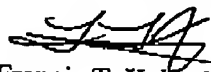
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections and request reconsideration of the pending application and prompt passage to issuance. As an aside, the applicants clarify that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the applicants as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Accordingly, applicants specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise.

As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the applicants' representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone numbers set out below can be used.

Respectfully submitted,

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